

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG

APPROVED BY: S/NM:DHERNST

----- 009343

P 072121Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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PASS TO AMBASSADOR VANCE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 0065 ACTION SECSTATE 6 JANUARY 76.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 0065

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: REACTION TO HERBICIDE USE

1. FOLLOWING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT JAN. 5 BY SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CUENCA DIAZ THAT MEXICAN ARMY WOULD EMPLOY HERBICIDES IN CURRENT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, EXCELSIOR JAN. 6 RAN NEWS STORY AND EDITORIAL THIS SUBJECT. NEWS STORY IS THREE INTERVIEWS WITH SECRETARY OF HEALTH, SEC OF AGRICULTURE, AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL STUDIES. GIST OF THREE INTERVIEWS IS THAT STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE SAFETY OF HERBICIDE USE HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND PERMISSION FOR THEIR USE WILL BE GIVEN ONLY WHEN STUDIES SHOW THAT EFFECT IS TEMPORARY AND THAT OTHER VEGETATION AND CROPS WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. SEC AGRICULTURE BRAUER RECALLED USE OF HERBICIDES IN VIETNAM.

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2. EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL TAKES SLIGHTLY MORE CRITICAL VIEW,

ASSERTING THAT NATIONAL DEFENSE IS ACTING OUTSIDE ITS COMPETENCE IN USING HERBICIDES AND ENDORSING VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD BE USED ONLY AFTER THE MOST METICULOUS INVESTIGATION. EXCELSIOR SAYS THAT USE OF HERBICIDES AT HIGH ELEVATIONS RUNS GREATER RISK OF DAMAGE SINCE HERBICIDES CAN BE WASHED DOWN TO LOWER ELEVATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MEXICAN AG PLANS TO COUNTER THIS WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO PLACE THE USE OF HERBICIDES IN PERSPECTIVE. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE NO GOM PLANS TO CURTAIL OR DISCONTINUE USE OF HERBICIDES.
JOVA UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), HERBICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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